

Country & Cultural Charm

1. Begin in Sandusky on US 250 and head southeast towards Milan.

2. Turn left onto SR 113 E. SR 113 becomes Church St. when entering this quaint village. Park on the Village Square and stretch your legs. Enjoy the historic architecture, including an original stagecoach inn, a Carnegie library, town hall, and more of this canal-era town.

3. Grab a coffee or some carry-out from one of several restaurants on the square and enjoy in the park.

4. From the square, walk east on Front St. a couple blocks to Edison Dr. Take a look at Edison Birthplace, the home of inventor Thomas Edison. Continue walking south on Edison Dr. to the Milan Museum complex. Walk the grounds and enjoy the garden and quaint architecture of these mid-19th century buildings and homes. Continue walking south to Church St. and turn right to return to the square.

5. Continue on SR 113 east then north on SR 61 through Berlin Heights. Turn right onto Main Rd., turn left onto Humm Rd. Stop at Quarry Hill Winery on the right to grab a bottle of wine to take home and visit Quarry Hill Orchard for homegrown produce. This is the highest point in Erie County so take-in the beautiful views of area orchards and farmland.

6 Return south on SR 61 and turn east on SR 113 to Birmingham. Stop by Burnham Orchards, located on the left, for homemade apple fritters and fresh cider to-go and Redhead Ciderhouse for a growler of hard cider. Continue east on SR 113. Just before the river bridge, turn right on Market St. Just ahead on the left is the Schoepfle Garden and Arboretum. Stop and stretch your legs at this unique 70-acre preserve of natural woodlands, gardens, ponds, and hiking trails along the Vermilion River.

7. Return to SR 113, and backtrack west. At SR 60, turn north and follow to US 6 into downtown Vermilion. Stop in to Paper Moon Winery and grab a bottle of wine to enjoy later.

8. Follow SR 60 into Vermilion to Liberty Ave. Park and explore, by foot, this quaint New England-style village. Grab a snack or a coffee from one of several eateries located in the downtown area. Walk to Main Street Beach and enjoy views of Lake Erie and Vermilion Lighthouse.

9. Head back towards Huron and Sandusky on US 6 going west. Enjoy the waterfront scenery as you make this drive from Vermilion back to Sandusky.

Lighthouses & Peninsulas

1. Begin in Marblehead. From SR 2, take the exit for SR 269 (Marblehead). Veer to the right and follow E. Bayshore Rd.

2. Follow E. Bayshore Rd. east and view the area's first lighthouse keeper's home (and oldest-surviving residence in Ottawa County) at the Keeper's House, built in 1821. Continuing east on E. Bayshore Rd., take a right onto Gaydos Dr. to see the Johnson's Island Confederate Officers Prison Cemetery.

3. Back onto E. Bayshore Rd., follow east into the Village of Marblehead. Stop at the Marblehead Lighthouse, the oldest, continually-operating lighthouse on the great lakes and take in the beauty of the scenery.

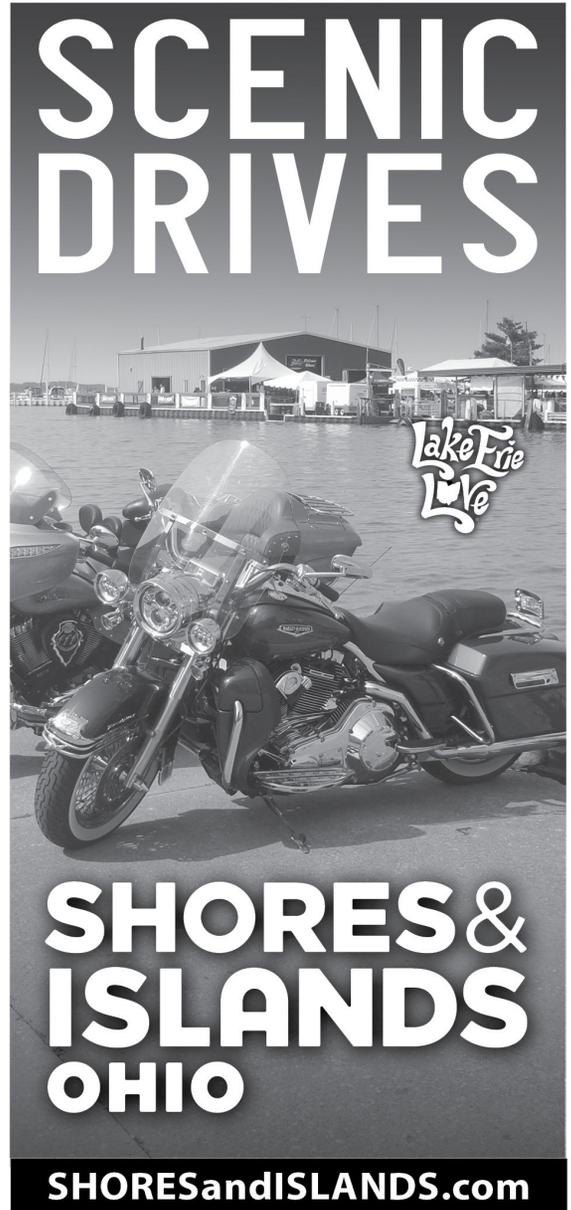
4. E. Bayshore becomes E. Harbor Rd./SR 163. Head west on E. Harbor Rd., turn right onto SR 269 N and explore the scenery at East Harbor State Park and Great Egret Marsh Preserve.

5. Head south on SR 269 and turn right on to SR 163. Take a left on Lightner Rd. and take a drive-thru tour of African Safari Wildlife Park.

6. Head north on Lightner Rd. and turn left to head west on E. Harbor Rd./SR 163 to SR 53. Head North on SR 53. Turn left on Cemetery Rd. and stop and enjoy Cedar Meadow Preserve.

7. Head back to SR 53 and turn left to keep going north and enjoy the views around Catawba Peninsula, looping around to N.W. Catawba Rd. Follow N.W. Catawba Rd. to E. Sand Rd. to SR 163 into Port Clinton. Stop and see the Port Clinton Lighthouse long SR 163 in Port Clinton before heading back onto SR 2.

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Historically Waterfront Downtown Sandusky

1. Begin on SR 2.

2. Exit at Rye Beach Rd. (US 6 W) and head north. At US 6, turn left, heading west.. Follow US 6 W for 6 miles.

4. Turn right onto Cedar Point Dr., heading north. Turn right onto River Ave. River Ave. turns slightly left and becomes F St. Here you will find Pipe Creek Wildlife Area. Enjoy 96 acres for bird and wildlife watching, fishing, and hiking. Please obey waterfowl hunting postings.

5. Continue north on F St. F St. turns left and becomes First St. Follow First St. for 1.5 miles.

6. Turn right onto Meigs St. Battery Park is on the right. At Battery Park, enjoy scenic views of Cedar Point Amusement Park and the beautiful Sandusky Bay. Stretch your legs by walking the pier, play a game of tennis, skateboard at the skate park, catch some fish, or enjoy a picnic.

7. Continue north on Meigs St. Turn left (west) onto Water St. Stop at Facer Park and learn about Sandusky's role in the Underground Railroad. Read the informational plaques to hear stories of the struggle for freedom. Relax at the gazebo and take-in the waterfront views.

8. Continue west on Water St. Turn left (south) onto Columbus Ave. Park and see the fountain at Schade-Mylander Plaza and during summer months, play a game. Grab a coffee or some take-out from one of several downtown restaurants and relax in an Adirondack chair and enjoy views of Sandusky's historic waterfront. While on Columbus Ave., consider taking a Segway tour at Sandusky Segwave.

9. Keep on Columbus Ave., going south to Washington Row. At Washington Park, take a stroll through floral gardens, visit the iconic Boy with the Boot Statue, check out the monarch butterfly garden, and observe the many historic limestone buildings; including Erie County Courthouse and Sandusky Library (originally a Carnegie Library). Did you know, because of our many quarries, Sandusky Ohio is home to the largest collection of limestone buildings in the U.S.?

10. Continue west on W. Washington St. to Tiffin Ave., turn right onto W. Monroe St. Be sure to take a look at the Sandusky Coal Docks to catch a glimpse of a freighter. Turn right onto Winnebago Ave. Stop at Lions Park which provides traditional recreation activities, including picnic shelters and tables, playground equipment, basketball courts, fishing, and scenic waterfront views. Splashpad open during summer months.

Historically Waterfront Downtown Sandusky continued

11. Head south on Winnebago Ave., back to Monroe St. and turn right, heading west. Take a left onto Edgewater Ave., then a right onto Venice Rd. Stop in to Toft Dairy Ice Cream Parlor, Ohio's oldest dairy, and grab a sweet treat before heading on to your next adventure.



Put-in-Bay

1. From SR 2, take the exit for SR 53 N (Catawba Island). Follow SR 53 N to the Miller Ferries to Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island located at 5174 E. Water St. (SR 53), Port Clinton (Catawba). Miller Ferries accommodates motorcycles and vehicles.

2. Enjoy an 18-minute ferry ride on Lake Erie to Put-in-Bay (South Bass Island).

3. Once you arrive on Put-in-Bay, go to the top of the hill and turn left to head west on Langram Rd. and walk the grounds of the South Bass Island Lighthouse.

4. Back on Langram Rd. head east.

5. Turn left on Put-in-Bay Rd. and stop to enjoy Jane Coats Wildflower Trail, full of native spring flowers in April and May.

6. At Meechen Rd., turn left, then turn right onto Catawba Rd. Catawba Rd. will take you near downtown, grab a carry-out meal from Topsy Turvey's Bar and Grill and enjoy at DiRivera Park.

7. Take a left onto Bayview Ave. and get a closer look at the impressive 352 ft. Doric column that is Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial.

8. From the memorial, head back to Catawba Rd. and take a left to South Bass Island State Park. Enjoy the lake views, walk a trail, or just take-in the lake scenery.

9. Back on Catawba Rd., make a right onto Meechen Rd., then another right onto Langram Rd. and head west back to the Miller Ferry Dock.

Kelleys Island

1. Begin by taking the Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line located at 510 W. Main St. (SR 163), Marblehead. Kelleys Island Ferry accommodates bicycles, motorcycles, RVs, and vehicles.

2. Enjoy a 20-minute scenic ride across Lake Erie to Kelleys Island.

3. Head west on Lakeshore Dr., and grab some take-out from The Village Pump to eat along your journey or at Veterans Park. Head east on Lakeshore Dr. and then north onto Division St.

4. Turn right onto Ward Rd. Stop at the East Quarry Trail and Horseshoe Lake and enjoy five miles of trails through the abandoned limestone quarry.

5. Continuing east on Ward Rd., turn left onto Monaghan Rd., heading north, and walk at Scheele Preserve and try finding some beach glass. Turn around at the end of the Monaghan Rd. and go to Hamilton Rd. and turn right to drive west. Turn right onto Division St. to Kelleys Island State Park and walk the pier or beach. Across the street, see the largest example of glacial scoring in the U.S. at Glacial Grooves State Memorial.

6. Then head west on Titus Rd. to connect with W. Lakeshore Dr.

7. Enjoy the beautiful lake views as you travel along the western shore of Kelleys Island and make your way back to the ferry and the mainland.

Wild Western Ottawa County

1. From Port Clinton, begin by driving west on SR 163.

2. Following SR 163 W, enjoy the views along the Portage River upon entering the village of Oak Harbor.

3. While in Oak Harbor, you can enjoy river views along the downtown area.

4. Head west out of Oak Harbor on SR 163 heading toward Genoa. Turn left onto Main St. and stop to see the replica of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

5. Go back to SR 163 and turn right to head east. Turn left onto SR 590 and go north. Turn right onto SR 2, then left onto Ottawa Nat. Wild. Rfg. to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, where you can enjoy 9,700 acres of marshes, uplands, and forested wetlands along with a variety of water fowl. Or drive further east on SR 2 to Magee Marsh where the drive will also take you to Lake Erie.

6. Return to SR 2 and go east to return to Port Clinton and/or the Sandusky area.